yog Limited had sought export licence to export Tribute Caskets to U.S.A.;

(b) whether these export licences were issued in the names of third party by M/s. Maruti Technical Services to M/s. Sevenska Inc, Panama;

(c) whether such transfer of licence was permitted by the Government; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (d) The export of Tribute Caskets was not under control during export policy 1985-88 and is also not under export control during the existing export policy. The item Tribute Caskets could be exported without obtaining export licence. Hence, the question of issue of export licence to M/s. Maruti Technical Services during the period from 1.4.1985 till date does not arise.

Export of Iron ore to Romania

984. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Government have represented against the sale of high-grade iron ore from Goa to Romania;

(b) whether it is also a fact that iron ore is cheaper by two Dollars per ton than similar high-grade iron ore being exported to Japan from India,

(c) whether the M.M.T.C. contract with REDI to export low-grade iron ore has been completed; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Indian Delegation's visit to Seoul

985. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian delegation recently visited Seoul;

(b) whether the delegation has requested Hyundai Corporation of South Korea to prepare a project report (DPR) on the development and expansion of port facilities at Paradip;

(c) if so, what is the total cost of the preparation of this report (DPR);

(d) whether Government had sought any assistance from Indian consultancy firm in the preparation of this detailed Project Report;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof;

(f) if not, what are the reasons thereof; and

(g) whether it is also a fact that due to delay, South Korea has refused to enter into a five year contract for the import of iron ore from India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited (MMTC) asked M/s. Hyundai Corporation of South Korea to undertake preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) on development and expansion of port facilities at Paradip Port in November 1987. An Indian delegation visited South Korea in April, 1988 to finalise details of cost etc. for preparation of the DPR.

(c) Total cost of preparation of DPR will be US 5,05,000 to the borne

by M/s. Hyundai Corporation and Rs. 74.2 lakhs to be paid in Indian Currency by MMTC.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Major portion of studies required for the project is being carried out by two Indian companies viz. Water and Power Consultancy Services and Consulting Engineering Services, New Delhi.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) No, Sir.

Credit limits fixed by NABARD

986. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has issued a circular in November, 1988 about putting credit limits on seasonal agricultural operations;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received complaints about these constraints on credit to agriculturists; and

(d) if so, whether Government have reconsidered the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALERIO): (a) to (d) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) had advised the State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) and State Land Development Banks (SLDBs) that refinance from NABARD will henceforth be subject to their compliance with various instructions laid down by RBI/NABARD relating to issue and repayment of loans, interest rates, rescheduling/deferment of loans etc. This had resulted in non-availability of refinance to SCBs/SLDBs for a short period till the banks had given an undertaking to follow the instructions. However, this did not affect the credit flow in the States as the refinance facilities were resumed after a brief period.

The refinance facilities that can be availed of from NABARD are subject to such conditions which are deemed essential for healthy functioning of credit institutions which include proper management, good recovery discipline, etc. Refinance from NABARD is provided to credit institutions only for the purpose of augmenting their resources and subject to the condition that these funds are channelised in areas considered important from the point of view of overall economy.

Change in the financial year

987. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given any fresh thought in the matter of changing the financial year; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHAVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Outstanding advances of Banks

988. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the total outstanding advances made by